AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) In a diaphragm for resisting lateral forces imposed on a building structure, an improved mechanical connection between a structural panel in said diaphragm and the framing members supporting said structural panel, said improved mechanical connection comprising:

a. said structural panel having a distal side, a proximal side, and a plurality of edge faces;
b. said plurality of framing members disposed in registration with said proximal side of said structural panel near said edge faces;
c. a plurality of perimeter fasteners connecting said structural panel to said framing members; and
d. means for reducing bending of said perimeter fasteners attached to a substantial number of said perimeter fasteners, said means for reducing bending of said perimeter fasteners acting when said lateral forces are imposed on said building structure.

2-22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) In a diaphragm for resisting lateral forces imposed on a building structure, an improved mechanical connection comprising:

a. a plurality of structural panels, each having a distal side, a proximal side and a plurality of edge faces;
b. a first elongated framing member disposed in registration with said proximal sides of said structural panels near one of said edge faces of each of said structural panels and one or more second elongated framing members disposed in registration with said proximal sides of said structural panels near a different one of said edge faces of each of said structural panels;

c. a plurality of perimeter fasteners connecting each of said structural panels to said first elongated framing member, said perimeter fasteners not passing all the way through said first elongated framing member; and

d. means for reducing bending of said perimeter fasteners attached to at least several perimeter fasteners of said plurality of perimeter fasteners connecting each of said structural panels to said first elongated framing member, said means for reducing bending of said perimeter fasteners acting when said lateral forces are imposed on said building structure, said means for reducing bending of said perimeter fasteners having portions disposed on said distal sides of said structural panels, and said means for reducing bending of said perimeter fasteners not extending substantially beyond said first elongated framing member.

24. (previously presented) The connection of claim 23 wherein:
said plurality of perimeter fasteners are closely spaced.

25. (previously presented) The connection of claim 24 wherein:
said plurality of perimeter fasteners are spaced approximately 2" apart in a direction generally parallel to said edge faces of said structural panels to which said first elongated framing member is connected.

26. (previously presented) The connection of claim 25 wherein:
said structural panels are made from wood.

27. (previously presented) The connection of claim 23, wherein:
said means for reducing bending of said perimeter fasteners consists of a perimeter edging member, said perimeter edging member being disposed near said edge face of said structural panels to which said first elongated member is attached.

28. (previously presented) The connection of claim 27, wherein:
said perimeter edging member is formed as an elongated member with a first face member.

29. (previously presented) The connection of claim 28, wherein:
said first face member of said perimeter edging member is disposed on said distal sides of said structural panels near said edge faces of said structural panels.

30. (previously presented) The connection of claim 29, wherein:
said means for reducing bending of said perimeter fasteners is made from light gauge, sheet metal.